allocation of funds are made under the scheme. Year-wise expenditure incurred is given as under:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	441.21
1996-97	800.00
1997-98	1070.38
1998-99	1600.15

(b) and (c) The scheme envisaged the serving of cooked meals to children of primary classes. However, at present only Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh (174 tribal blocks), Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, are serving a cooked meal while other States/ UTs are distributing foodgrains.

An independent agency recently evaluated the scheme in ten States and its findings state that in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, there has been a boost to enrolment. In Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan, the programme has made positive impact on attendance and retention. While the pace of implementation of the programme is satisfactory in some States, efforts are on to improve the programme in other States in consultation with the respective State Governments.

Assistance to Orissa for Recruitment of Hindi Teachers

238. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of assistance etc. being given by the Centre to Orissa for recruitment of Hindi Teachers;

(b) the number of vacant posts of Hindi Teachers under the scheme in Orissa, district-wise as on 31st January, 2000; and

(c) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the said vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) During the current financial year, no grant has been released to the Government of Orissa under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Appointment and Training of Hindi Teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs as the State Government has not sent any proposal on the subject. Central assistance is given to the States/UTs on receipt of a proposal intimating the creation of posts of Hindi teachers as per the vacancies determined by the State/UT concerned. Central assistance is released to the State/UT keeping in view their actual requirement and subject to availability of funds under the scheme.

New Kendriya Vidyalayas

239. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the current year;

(b) if so, whether any new school has been sanctioned for Kerala also; and

(c) what steps have been taken for improvement of Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Five Kendriya Vidyalayas have been opened in Civil/Defence Sector in lieu of five closed/merged Vidyalayas. Besides, three Kendriya Vidyalayas have been opened in Projects/Institutes of Higher Learning. Of these, one Kendriya Vidyalaya has been sanctioned at NTPC Kayakulam (Kerala).

(c) Necessary steps are being taken to ensure overall improvement in the functioning of Kendriya Vidyalayas.